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**Mineral Waters.** Two laws have recently been enacted for the protection of natural mineral springs which have a special interest on account of their bearing on the law of percolating waters. In May 1908 the New York legislature passed an act making it unlawful to pump waters or by any artificial means to accelerate the flow of water from any artificial well, the water of which contains in solution natural mineral salts and an excess of carbonic acid gas when such pumping interferes with the flow of water from any spring owned by any other person. This law was passed particularly for the protection of the Saratoga Springs.

Following the example of New York the owners of mineral springs in Indiana around French Lick and West Baden secured the passage in 1909 of a similar law prohibiting the pumping of water containing specified salts and acids, when the flow of any spring would be diminished or endangered or the quality of the water impaired.

Thus far the courts in New York have upheld the law of that state though it has not been passed upon by the court of appeals.

These laws are in conflict with the trend of judicial opinion concerning percolating waters. A similar law prohibiting waste of water from artesian wells passed in Wisconsin in 1901 was declared unconstitutional by the supreme court of that state. The general rule has been followed that unless there is a clearly defined water course underground the owner of the surface cannot be restricted in his use of waters from artesian wells.

JOHN A. LAPP.

**Monopoly.** The government of the Australian commonwealth recently introduced a bill to increase the effectiveness of anti-trust legislation. The minister of trade and commerce explained that the recent decisions of the high court made the proposed amendments necessary.

M. A. S.

**Pensions—Railroad.** The coopération of the Boston and Maine Railroad, with their employees for the establishment of a pension system under state supervision is provided by a recent act of the Massachusetts legislature (Laws, 1909 Ch., 435). The system is voluntary with the company and the employees. It must be adopted by the directors of the company and by two-thirds vote of the employees voting on the proposition before it becomes operative.